The Crow and the Fox – Jean de la Fontaine

Master Crow, perched on a tree branch, held a piece of cheese in his beak.

Master Fox, drawn by the odour, said something like this to him, “Hey, Mister Crow, how nice you look, you seem almost beautiful. I swear, if your song is as good as your plumage, you are the brightest Phoenix in these woods.”

With these words, the Crow was besides himself with joy; and to show off his beautiful voice, he opened his beak wide to sing, allowing his meal to fall to the ground.

The Fox pounced on it and said, “My dear fellow, learn that all flattery comes at the expense of the one who hears it: This lesson is, without doubt, worth a piece of cheese.”

Embarrassed and ashamed, the Crow pledged, though a little late, that he would not be fooled again.